

Grantham, Nancy

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Konkus, John
Cc: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: Administrator Bio V2
Attachments: Document1 (004).docx

John – I incorporated what you sent late yesterday – so take a look at this version.

As I said, no pride of authorship here, just wanting to get the full picture in one place and folks can then edit/comment as they see fit.

Feel free to send anything back to me this weekend and I will turn it back around.

Thanks ng

On February XX, 2016, the United States Senate confirmed Scott Pruitt as the 14th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Administrator Pruitt believes that promoting and protecting a strong and healthy environment is among the lifeblood priorities of the government, and EPA is vital to that mission.

As Administrator, Mr. Pruitt's overarching goal is to lead EPA in a way that our future generations inherit a better and healthier environment as he works with the thousands of dedicated public servants at EPA who have devoted their careers to helping realize this shared vision, while faithfully administering environmental laws.

Most recently, Administrator Pruitt served as the Attorney General for Oklahoma. Almost immediately upon taking office, he worked with his Democratic counterpart in Arkansas to reach agreement to study the water quality of the Illinois River that crosses the border between the two states and has been enjoyed by generations of Oklahomans. The Statement of Joint Principles provides for a best science study using EPA-approved methods, with both states agreeing, for the first time, to be bound by the outcome.

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He has dedicated his career to creating policy that serves the people. He strongly believes that environmental law, policy and progress are all based on cooperation between the States, cooperation between the States and EPA, and cooperation between regulators and the public. As Attorney General for Oklahoma, he led the State's legal challenges against property rights intrusion while protecting Oklahoma's natural resources and environment.

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In addition to his life as a civil servant, Administrator Pruitt is a successful entrepreneur. As a co-owner and managing general partner of Oklahoma City's Triple-A minor league baseball affiliate, the Oklahoma City Redhawks, Mr. Pruitt took over the team's marketing operations and helped the team become one of the minor league leaders in attendance and merchandise sales.

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Grantham, Nancy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 6:28 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: Fwd: Draft Bio v2
Attachments: 081116 Final Press Release.pdf; ATT00001.htm

They still want some additional refinement on this part of the bio. See below for more background.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jackson, Ryan (Inhofe)" <Ryan_Jackson@inhofe.senate.gov>
To: "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft Bio v2

John, attached is a press release from August 2016 detailing the agreement AG Pruitt reached.

Upon reaching this agreement it needed Congressional approval so the agreement he reached with Oklahoma City, Choctaw Nation, and Chickasaw Nation quickly was placed into legislation which passed the U.S. Senate Section 8002 of S. 2848 on September 15, 2016 and ultimately was enacted after a conference with the House as Section 3608 of Public Law 114-322, signed December 16, 2016. I don't know that this second paragraph is necessary but this is the full story. Reached agreement and got it enacted into federal law quickly.

-----Original Message-----

From: Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 4:30 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan (Inhofe) <Ryan_Jackson@inhofe.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: Draft Bio v2

Got it. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 11, 2017, at 2:54 PM, Jackson, Ryan (Inhofe) <Ryan_Jackson@inhofe.senate.gov> wrote:

Yes he does. I'll be glad to look at what they have but they don't know Scott from Adam. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ryan Jackson

Chief of Staff

U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe

205 Russell Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-4721

On Feb 11, 2017, at 2:04 PM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

Ready and able to help. Good team of career folks here in the comms office that are helping me make it happen.

Does he want open press on Friday? We have a couple of options. We can do for open press or no press, or we can push it out to the satellite with our own internal technology, or we can have one pool (ABC did DeVos for example) camera cover it.

Please send the release and I will walk Nancy through it.

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On Feb 11, 2017, at 1:34 PM, Jackson, Ryan (Inhofe) <Ryan_Jackson@inhofe.senate.gov> wrote:

The settlement was really more about ensuring drinking water for Oklahoma communities while ensuring that the tribes have a seat at the table to respond to their concerns. There's a press release out which did a good job with this. I'm heading to the office shortly and can email it to you.

So to be clear, thanks for the work on the video but he's just giving the main speech Friday and jumping into this. I could use help with the set up for that and press. We'll just blast the full speech to everyone. He believes and I don't blame him that more meaningful than some video which says nothing.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe
205 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4721

On Feb 11, 2017, at 11:08 AM, Konkus,
John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

Ryan: Please see attached.

<Document1 (004).docx>



Momentous Water Rights Agreement Reached by the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, State of Oklahoma and City of Oklahoma City

Agreement settles long-standing water disputes, establishes framework for future cooperation and conservation, and provides certainty for water resource management

OKLAHOMA CITY/DURANT, Okla./ADA, Okla. – The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City announced today that they have reached a water rights settlement, which will be presented to Congress for final approval.

When finalized, the settlement will resolve long-standing questions over water rights ownership and regulatory authority over the waters of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations' historic treaty territories, an area that spans approximately 22 counties in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma. The agreement provides a framework that fosters intergovernmental collaboration on significant water resource concerns within the Settlement Area, while at the same time protecting existing water rights and affirming the State's role in water rights permitting and administration. Additionally, the agreement will implement a robust system of lake level release restrictions to allow Oklahoma City's measured use of Sardis Lake for municipal supply purposes while continuing to support regionally critical recreation, fish and wildlife uses.

"We are proud to be part of this historic agreement among the State of Oklahoma, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and the City of Oklahoma City," said Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin. "We all understand the importance of water for sustaining life and as the engine that drives our economic growth. By choosing cooperation and collaboration over conflict and litigation, this agreement strengthens governmental relationships based on the common interests of the State and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

“While the State will continue to exercise its authority to manage and protect water resources throughout Oklahoma, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations will rightly play a role in significant water allocation and management evaluations within the Settlement Area. This agreement is an important first step in all Oklahomans coming together to address the wise use and protection of our shared water resources.”

For decades there has been legal uncertainty in the Settlement Area regarding water rights and regulatory authority arising from unresolved questions of federal law and tribal rights. These uncertainties have contributed to long-running conflicts over Sardis Lake and the Kiamichi Basin in southeastern Oklahoma, resulting in multiple court actions. Once finalized, the settlement will end ongoing litigation including a federal lawsuit the Nations filed against the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City with regard to Sardis Lake and other waters of the historic treaty territory and a second lawsuit the State filed to adjudicate water rights in the Kiamichi, the Muddy Boggy, and the Clear Boggy watersheds. By reaching this settlement, the parties avoid decades of litigation and associated expenses and uncertainty for the State, the Nations, Oklahoma City and property owners throughout the Settlement Area.

Attorney General Scott Pruitt commented, “Water is a shared resource, so finding a way to work together was vitally important. I commend the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and City of Oklahoma City for working purposefully and tirelessly with the State over the past five years to reach an equitable agreement. The State retains its permitting authority over water in the Settlement Area, which is important since uniform permitting and administration provide certainty and consistency for the management and use of water resources. When finalized, the agreement will protect existing rights and provide certainty for future uses in southeastern Oklahoma and other areas of the state.”

Under the terms of the agreement, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations will participate in technical evaluations of significant future water right allocation proposals within the Settlement Area. The agreement also formalizes protections for the current and future water needs of communities throughout the region, ensuring adequate water for south-central and southeastern Oklahoma and enhancing stewardship of water resources both for future consumptive use within the region as well as protecting lake levels and stream flows on which the vibrant tourism industry relies.

“This agreement is a win for all Oklahomans,” said Gov. Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation. “We have forged this deal based on our common interests with an understanding that we all want the same thing – to take care of our vital water resources responsibly with respect to the needs of all Chickasaws, Choctaws and Oklahomans. The Nations now have a meaningful and active voice in significant water transfers from our area. Furthermore, this settlement preserves and protects

water resources essential to economic growth and quality of life in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma. Unity and cooperation among all stakeholders offers our best chance to help ensure a strong economy and thriving natural environment for our children and grandchildren through proper stewardship of our shared water resources.”

Chief Gary Batton of the Choctaw Nation stated, “What happens in regards to the protection and preservation of water is of great importance. When finalized, this agreement secures existing uses of water and provides certainty with regard to the future use of Sardis Lake for the benefit of recreation, fish and wildlife, and local water use. Importantly, moving forward, both the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations will have a seat at the table in the protection of southeastern Oklahoma water resources for municipal and recreational use. And, as we all know, a vibrant recreation and tourism industry creates jobs and strengthens economies inside and outside of the Settlement Area. Additionally, we are pleased that the agreement supports keeping water in the Settlement Area within the State by maintaining current state law prohibitions and adding significant protections.”

“Five years of concentrated research, analysis and modeling provide the underpinnings of this agreement,” stated J.D. Strong, Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) executive director. “All parties were committed to basing decisions on fact and science, building upon the foundation of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan using the best information we had or could develop regarding potential impacts on lake levels and stream flows. The State, the Nations and Oklahoma City were committed to applying what we have learned through decades of study so that our water resources can be protected while supporting a strong and growing economy in the region and throughout the state.”

The agreement also establishes the legal security of Oklahoma City’s water supplies and gives the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan area access to water for its future needs. Oklahoma City’s releases from Sardis Lake will be governed by a system of lake level release restrictions based on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation’s lake level management plan, which is designed to protect fishing and recreational resources. Oklahoma City will also gain access to the Kiamichi River dependent upon lake level release and minimum stream flow restrictions intended to protect the environment and recreational uses.

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett commented, “We expect the considerable growth we have experienced in Oklahoma City over the past decades to continue well into this century. Our future growth will be propelled by our ability to attract capital, promote innovation, maintain affordable energy, increase productivity, and probably most importantly, manage our water and land use. And while this agreement ensures we have access to water through a clearly defined and orderly

process for decades ahead, we must continue to promote water conservation. We are pleased to be part of this agreement and the opportunities it creates for even greater collaboration and cooperation in the future.”

The agreement achieves the State’s goals of affirming the OWRB’s role in water rights administration, allowing for an orderly system of water allocation and administration. Additionally, the agreement resolves the outstanding debt associated with Sardis Lake and provides vital water supply to local water users and to Oklahoma City, while at the same time protecting recreational uses and the reservoir’s trophy bass fishery.

Existing water rights or rights to surface or groundwater will not be affected by the agreement, and the agreement does not authorize out-of-state use or diversion of water, which remains unlawful absent of State legislative approval. The settlement calls for a commission to evaluate the impacts of future proposals for out-of-state water use or diversion, which would remain subject to State legislative authorization. Should the Oklahoma Legislature ever approve such a proposal, the agreement ensures that any proceeds would be devoted to meeting water and wastewater infrastructure needs, particularly in southeastern Oklahoma.

In response to the announcement of an agreement, The Honorable Judge Lee R. West, with the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, commented, “I have been on the bench for 51 years, but this is an especially proud moment to witness all of these diverse parties coming together to find solutions that are in the best interest of all Oklahomans and my home state. This is without doubt an historic achievement.”

After the agreement is signed by all parties, it must be approved by federal legislation and executed by the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior. The parties are now working with the Oklahoma congressional delegation to secure appropriate legislation.

Additional information can be found online at www.WaterUnityOK.com.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Michael McNutt, Governor of Oklahoma, 405-522-8878

Robyn Elliott, Chickasaw Nation, 580-436-7205

Judy Allen, Choctaw Nation, 580-924-8280 ext. 2245

Kristy Yager, City of Oklahoma City, 405-297-2550 and 405-863-2831

Will Gattenby, Attorney General, 405-522-0166

Cole Perryman, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, 405-530-8942

Brent Gooden, General Contact, 405-715-3232

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Grantham, Nancy

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:23 AM
To: Konkus, John
Cc: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: Administrator Bio V3
Attachments: Document1 (004) (002).docx

Reflects the info Ryan sent. May be a little long- but easier to cut back after things are in it.

Thanks ng

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Grantham, Nancy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:51 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: RE: Administrator Bio V3

Great job on this! Only a few minor edits:

Do not abbreviate Tulsa's - say University of Tulsa law school

According to his Senate testimony, he has been married for 27 years.

Marlyn not Marilyn

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Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
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From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:09 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy; Konkus, John
Subject: Administrator Bio V4 (with latest edits)
Attachments: Document1 (004) (002) (002).docx

Pulled in the edits you just sent.

Thanks ng

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Grantham, Nancy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 9:57 AM
To: Orquina, Jessica; Hull, George; Grantham, Nancy; Hart, Daniel
Subject: Bio and Photo
Attachments: Scott Pruitt Photo (2).jpg

Administrator Scott Pruitt became a national leader through a career of advocating to keep power in the hands of the American voter and away from overreaching government bureaucrats.

Mr. Pruitt has dedicated his career to creating policy that serves the people. He led Oklahoma's legal challenges against the EPA's intrusion against property rights while protecting Oklahoma's natural resources and environment. During his tenure as Attorney General Scott Pruitt successfully negotiated an historic agreement to clean the Illinois River, one of Oklahoma's Science Rivers.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree from Georgetown College and graduating from the University of Tulsa's School of Law, Scott Pruitt went into private legal practice, specializing in Constitutional Law.

Mr. Pruitt began his career in public service in 1998 when, as a young family man, when he challenged the political establishment and won a seat in the Oklahoma State Senate.

In 2010, Scott became the second Republican in Oklahoma history to serve as Attorney General. Because of his effective and visionary leadership, Scott Pruitt served two terms as president of the Republican Attorneys General Association.

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Grantham, Nancy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 3:16 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: Re: Draft Administrator Pruitt Bio

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2017, at 2:43 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Please let me know if you need anything.

Thanks ng

<Document1 (004).docx>

Grantham, Nancy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 6:03 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: Re: over the weekend

Thank you.

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On Feb 10, 2017, at 6:02 PM, Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

Great - will rework and send back

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On Feb 10, 2017, at 5:54 PM, Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov> wrote:

He would like to include the water agreement he negotiated with an Indian tribe in the bio. Here are some points:

Pruitt has a long record of environmental protection in Oklahoma as the state's Attorney General. He negotiated an historic water rights settlement with Indian tribes that preserved the ecosystems of scenic lakes and rivers; he worked with his Democrat counterpart in Arkansas to reduce pollution in the Illinois River; and he represented the interests of Oklahomans in rate cases against utility companies and in numerous actions against those who contaminated his state's air and water, including lawsuits against oil and gas companies that were profiting off pollution and defrauding taxpayers.

Scott Pruitt led a historic settlement between Oklahoma, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and Oklahoma City

- What could've been vs. what it was
- Water settlement cases are typically lengthy, costly, divisive, and disruptive.
- Instead, this process was one of commitment, hard work, perseverance and cooperation.
- Protects existing rights and provide certainty for future uses in SE OK and other areas of the state
- Forward Thinking
- Puts in place a process if out of-state transfers are permitted by legislature in the future.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 10, 2017, at 5:53 PM, Grantham, Nancy
<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov> wrote:

<image001.gif>

If you get any feedback on the bio or video script –
feel free to send to me and I am happy to work on it.

Have a great weekend with your family.

Thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
202-253-7056 (mobile)

Grantham, Nancy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 11:07 AM
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ryan Jackson

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Cc: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Bio V3

Reflects the info Ryan sent. May be a little long- but easier to cut back after things are in it.

Thanks ng

Grantham, Nancy

From: Konkus, John
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 5:23 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy
Subject: RE: Administrator Bio V4 (with latest edits)

Approved. Good work.

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:09 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: Administrator Bio V4 (with latest edits)

Pulled in the edits you just sent.

Thanks ng